

## THE WESTERN LEAGUE

The recent meeting of the Western league held in Chicago has given that organization such a boom that its prospects now look most rosy and bright. But in the work of reorganizing the league its promoters are going carefully and slowly. It is the intention to admit to membership only such cities as will remain in the league for a number of years. The Western league will come into the field in 1894 and expects to stay. As a training school in developing young players it is expected to exert a powerful influence upon the National league. It is well known that the eastern and southern league have turned out few desirable acquisitions for the major body. The leagues in question were made up, in fact, from professionals who had outlived their usefulness in the big organization. Never before in the history of base ball was the supply of crack young players so inadequate to the demand. In previous years the league magnates recruited from the ranks of the Western league, which has turned out more promising youngsters than any organization of its kind in America. It is the west that develops new players and by 1895 it is expected that the minor body will, as in the past, contribute to the strengthening of weak spots in the teams representing the National league. The latter will extend all possible help to the new organization and its success is assured from the start.

## WHAT MANNING SAYS.

James H. Manning, who is one of the prominent organizers of the proposed new Western league, speaks in glowing terms of the prospects for a substantial Western base ball organization for next season. Jim will control the Kansas City club in the new organization. He says: "Kansas City, Milwaukee and Minneapolis at the recent meeting were appointed a committee on circuit and the following cities were granted franchises: Toledo, Columbus, Indianapolis, Milwaukee, Minneapolis and Kansas City, and the other two members will probably be Detroit and Omaha, making the best circuit the west has ever had. Every town showed good financial backing and I am sure we are going to have a good season. I am already engaging players and you may be sure I will have a good hustling club. I am going east to Fall River, Mass., but will be back in Chicago in a few weeks to attend a meeting to permanently organize the new league."

## THE NEW LEAGUE'S CHANCES.

A few weeks more will find the Western league a compact and solid body organized by clever, shrewd and experienced managers whose aim it will be to make it the leading minor league in the country. Past experience has taught these same magnates the advisability of early and complete organization. This in all probability will be the roster of the Western league in 1894: Kansas City, Milwaukee, Minneapolis, St. Paul, Toledo, Columbus, Indianapolis, Detroit and Omaha.

## KANSAS CITY'S PROSPECTS.

Kansas City should do well in the new organization. She has had in her life-time National league, American association, Union association and Western league experience. But she never did prosper more in the base ball way than when a member of the Western league. This would indicate that the Western league is her natural sphere. She is geographically situated in the center of the Western league line, lying nearly midway as she does between the farthest western and the farthest eastern city mentioned. Besides that Kansas City has a population sufficiently large to support a professional team in proper style. This population besides being sufficiently large to give the team good support is a liberal one in its ideas and will always permit the playing of Sunday games. Kansas City at the present writing has a well situated and thoroughly well equipped base ball park already within its precincts. With all these facts in view I see no reason in the world why a Kansas City club in the proposed new association should not prove a gilt edged investment from the start.

## MILWAUKEE AND CUSHMAN.

Milwaukee, under the management of Charley Cushman, the most popular manager that ever handled a club in that city, will be represented in the new Western league, and from past experience no town in the northwest has shown more determination to hold out under adverse circumstances than the Cream city. Cushman is a man of vast experience and a shrewd and economical financier, well posted as to the abilities of every ball player in the country, and when the bell taps in the spring Manager Cushman will be found with a team of youngsters who have developed as first-class players since Milwaukee was represented in a league. Milwaukee also starts out with a well equipped and well situated ball ground, and as there will be no need of an outlay on that score I see no reason why the club should not make money from the start.

## MINNEAPOLIS AND ST. PAUL.

The Minneapolis-St. Paul Twin City club would be a winner beyond doubt from the start. A good many of the

admirers of the game in that locality would like to have a club in the National league. They will never be successful, however, in obtaining a league franchise. The location is entirely too far away from the other cities of the National league. These two cities have always been the northern foundation of the Western league. The consolidation of Minneapolis and St. Paul into one club to be known as the Twin City team would be the fulfillment of prophecies and expectation of the admirers of the Western league for years. The distance from these two cities is only twelve miles and could a ball park be built half way between each city on the line of the electric road and with Sunday ball the game there would take a boom that would meet with the most sanguine anticipations of the most ardent lovers of the game in the northwest.

## AS TO COLUMBUS' PROSPECTS.

The brilliant achievements of Columbus in both the old American association and Western league are still fresh in the memory. A more desirable city could not be selected. Manager Gus Schmelz, demonstrated that fact in 1892. Columbus has always been willing to enter the Western league any time that body showed it was on a sound financial basis and when such a state of affairs could not be shown generally steered clear of it, having had all the experience desired in loosely managed minor leagues. In 1892, Columbus under that able manager, Gus Schmelz, entered the Western league, and when the crisis came in the middle of the season offered to lend a helping hand to other clubs in distress. Columbus is all right and will be found with plenty of capital to put a team in that city.

## THE CHANCES OF INDIANAPOLIS.

Indianapolis, like Kansas City, has been represented in years past by National league and American association clubs, but always was most successful while a member of the Western league, with the exception of the season of 1891. Indianapolis had started on a trip of twenty-four games, and met with the most abominable, unforeseen and unprecedented weather that had been known for years. Out of twenty-four games scheduled four were all that could be played, rain and wet grounds interfering in all the rest. What minor league club could have continued under such circumstances? Fifteen hundred dollars were thrown to the four winds on this trip alone. Mr. John T. Brush, the president of the Cincinnati club, will put a team in this city the coming season. Under the advice and financial help of such a man Indianapolis should make a record second to none in the Western league.

At last the lovers of the national game of Detroit will have a chance of witnessing first-class ball the coming season. Detroit in past seasons has ably demonstrated its ability to support base ball, everyone remembers the high-priced club maintained by that city in 1888, which won the championship of the world, only once since then has Detroit been represented in a professional way; the lovers of base ball in that city are now hungry for the game. Detroit with a good club will be a success in 1894.

Mr. J. Long, who will locate a team in Toledo, has been promised all the financial aid desired. He was the president of the Charleston club of the Southern league last season, where his fine business qualifications and shrewd management won for him unlimited praise.

Omaha after a lapse of two years seems more than anxious to secure admission in the new Western league. Manager J. J. McCloskey, of last season's Montgomery club of the Southern league, will probably be the manager. He has been promised all the financial assistance necessary, and it is needless to say Omaha has come to stay.

As to Lincoln's prospects they are not quite so bright as they were; but there is still some hope. The gentlemen in this city who are interested in the matter say that they are not particularly anxious to see Lincoln a member of the league if such cities as Detroit are admitted. They say that we could not compete with cities of that size. It is quite probable that if Detroit and Toledo are admitted Lincoln will not be admitted. However, the whole was doubtless settled at the meeting held in Chicago last night, reports from which had not reached this city when THE COURIER went to press.

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## DEADMAN'S HOME

We arrived at the crossing of the Niobrara river at 3 o'clock in the afternoon, and were then so far behind the Indian band we were pursuing that it was determined to give up the chase and wait there for Captain Frayne's detachment to come in from the west. We were making camp when a dog came out of a thicket on our right and began howling. Everybody saw at a glance that it was a settler's dog, and everybody realized in an instant what his actions signified. Every man of the 200 stood looking at the animal, when he ceased howling and came forward. He was a gaunt, fierce looking beast, and many of the men held their carbines ready to shoot as he came trotting up and halted at the feet of the major. After a long look into the officer's face the dog threw up his head and howled again—a long drawn, quivering howl which sent a chill over every man, and even made the horses look up from their feed.

"Captain, detail a sergeant and five men to follow the dog," said the major as he turned to the commander of E troop. "I think there's a pioneer's cabin on the far side of the thicket. If nothing is to be found within half a mile, let a man return and report, and I will send out a larger force."

As we caught up our horses the dog ceased howling and exhibited signs that he understood. As we mounted he trotted away at the head of the detail and led us straight for the thicket. It proved to be a fringe or curtain hiding a lovely little valley, and as soon as we passed through it we saw the cabin of a pioneer half a mile away. We wheeled into line, opened out in skirmishing order and approached the cabin at a walk. When half the distance had been passed, we saw a wolf sneak out from the cover of the cabin and run for the brush covered hillside. A moment later two great vultures which were perched on the roof and perhaps asleep took wing and flew heavily away.

"There are dead men in there!" whispered the sergeant as we came to a halt. "See there! It was an Indian attack, and they tried to burn the people out. Look at the bullet holes! See that trickle of blood under the door!"

The dog advanced to the door, sniffed at the blood and then threw up his head and howled dismally.

"We must use this log to break the door in," continued the sergeant. "The Indians brought it here, but the fire was too hot. See where the wolves have licked the blood off the grass! There has been a terrible fight here. Now, then, altogether and heaven! That's it—one—two—three—and the door gives way!"

We dropped the log and retreated a step or two, while the excited dog sprang into the cabin and whined and barked and finally gave utterance to a howl so full of lamentation that some of the men closed their ears to the sound. Every man was pale-faced and trembling. The sergeant should be the first to look in, but he hesitated, and it was only after a great effort that he pulled himself together and advanced. On the rough floor, as if they had crawled together to die, were four men, a woman and two children, the latter about 7 and 4 years old respectively. It was a log cabin, with boards instead of sash and glass at the windows, and there were hundreds of crevices between the logs through which a bullet might find its way. How long the fight had lasted we could not determine, but all there had been dead for 24 hours at least.

"You can see how it was," said the sergeant after sending off a man to the command. "Three of these men came down the trail about the Indians fleeing for their lives and warning other settlers. When they turned in here, the red devils were close after them, and the only thing to do was to fight. Look at the bullet holes! See how many wounds each one has! The Indians fired from every direction, even down through the roof. It must have been an all day fight, and the last man or two was able to handle a gun when the Indians got the alarm and left. There was the husband and father. In his dying hour he lay down his rifle and crept over to his dead wife and children and flung his arms over them. What's that on the floor?"

We removed the boards from the two windows to let in more light, and on the white surface of a split log used as a floor board we found a scrawl traced in blood. There lay the splinter which had been used as a pen, and within six inches of it were the fingers of a dead man. In the semi-darkness of day or the gloom of night his rude pen had painfully and roughly written in his own blood the words:

"Over 200 Indians. All wiped out but me, and I'm hard hit. Send word!"

That was all. The splinter fell from his fingers, and he sank down and died. We gave them burial in the grassy valley and burned the cabin, and as we broke camp the dog went with us, fierce, wild-eyed and wolfish, but knowing that he was among friends.

## The Human Heart.

The human heart is a hollow muscle of a conical form placed between the two lungs and inclosed in the pericardium, or heart sac. The ordinary size of the heart in the adult is about 5 inches in length, 3 1/4 inches in breadth at the broadest part and 2 1/2 inches in thickness, and its weight is from 10 to 12 ounces in men and from 8 to 10 ounces in women. Dr. Benecke of Marburg has made known his observations on the growth of the human heart, the fact appearing that the increase is greatest and most rapid during the first and second years of life, its bulk at the end of the second year being exactly double what it originally was. Between the second and seventh years it is again almost double in size. A slower rate of growth then sets in and continues during the period of maturity of other portions of the body. After the fifteenth year up to the fiftieth the annual growth of the heart is about .001 of a cubic inch, the increase ceasing about the fiftieth year.

The heart, although so small, is a wonderful piece of mechanism and of great power. With each stroke or beat it projects something like 2 1/2 ounces of blood into the conduits or channels of the body, throwing it for a distance of nine feet. This is done 60 or 70 times a minute. The number of its pulsations varies in the sexes and according to posture. In the male it beats 81 times per minute when standing, 71 when sitting and 66 when lying. In females it is 91, 84, 80 in similar positions respectively.—Boston Herald.

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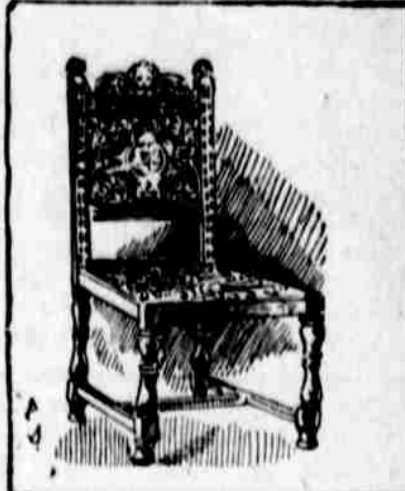
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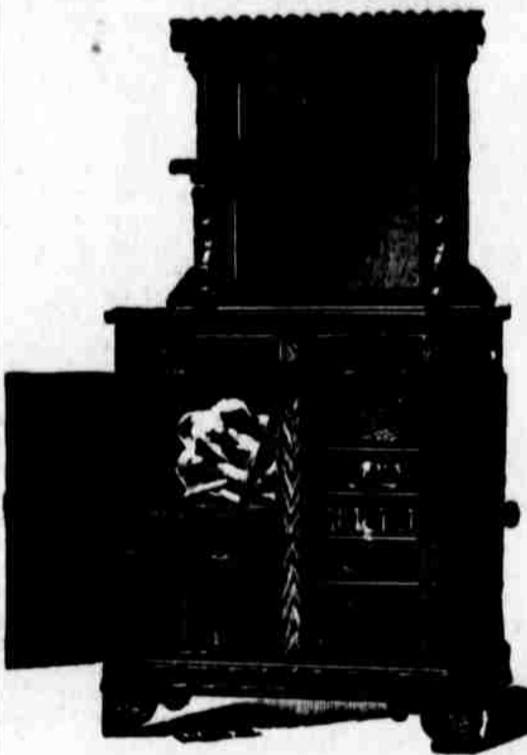
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